

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/566,986  
Reply to OA dated September 11, 2006

**AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:**

Please amend FIG. 6 as shown by adding "PRIOR ART". The replacement sheet is attached.

**REMARKS**

Applicant has amended the specification to remove objectionable references to specific claims and labeled FIG. 6 as "PRIOR ART". The claims have also been amended to clarify the present invention.

As now amended, Claim 1, the only independent claim herein, is to a wire harness excessive length absorbing device that has a case, having a base wall, front wall, rear wall, pair of side walls and a cover, for receiving a wire harness and having an inlet formed in a side wall adjacent the rear wall, and an outlet formed in the rear wall for the wire harness. An urging member is provided for urging the wire harness toward an inside of the case, and a harness roller is provided on which the wire harness is rolled, the harness roller reciprocally moving under acting force of the urging member,. A harness guide is mounted on the outlet and curved toward the inlet for guiding the harness to the outside of the case. Such an arrangement of a wire harness excessive length absorbing device is not taught or suggested in the prior art.

In the Office Action, claims 1-4 were rejected as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) in view of the teachings of Nishitani et al. (U.S. 5,877,936). Reconsideration and removal of the rejection is respectfully requested in view of the present amendments to Claim 1 and the following remarks.

In the Office Action, it is alleged that Nishitani shows a device having a case (10) for receiving a wire harness having an inlet and outlet (FIG. 5), an urging member (27) for urging the harness toward the inside of the case, a harness roller (23) on which the harness is rolled, the roller moving reciprocally by the urging member, and a harness guide mounted on the outlet and curved

toward the inlet. It is also alleged that in Nishitani the harness guide is curved in the same direction of the wire harness being rolled on the roller, that the outlet is disposed perpendicular to the inlet, and that the radius of corner of the harness guide is formed equal to or larger than a thickness of the case.

In Nishitani, however, there is no outlet in a casing disposed in a perpendicular direction to an inlet. Also, the element (27), referred to by the Examiner as an urging member is described in Nishitani as a protector which slides in and out of the casing (10). In addition, there is no showing of a harness guide mounted on an outlet of a case that is curved toward an inlet, as alleged in the drawing shown in the Office Action. The “outlet” referred to in the Office Action is for reciprocable movement of the harness protector (27).

Claim 1 has been amended to provide a base wall, front wall, rear wall, pair of side walls and cover, with the inlet formed in a side wall adjacent the rear wall, and the outlet formed in the rear wall. Such a construction is nowhere taught or suggested in the Nishitani reference with the benefits provided by such a construction.

In the present claimed device, as provided in amended Claim 1, the case has a base wall, front wall, rear wall, pair of side walls and a cover, and an inlet for a wire harness is formed in a side wall adjacent the rear wall while an outlet is formed in the rear wall, an arrangement completely distinct from Nishitani. The present claimed arrangement reduces the length of any protrusion of the harness guide out of the case and enables use of a slim case for use in narrow space applications.

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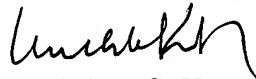
In view of the present amendment and the above remarks, Claims 1-7 are believed to patentable and in condition for allowance. Early action towards allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE



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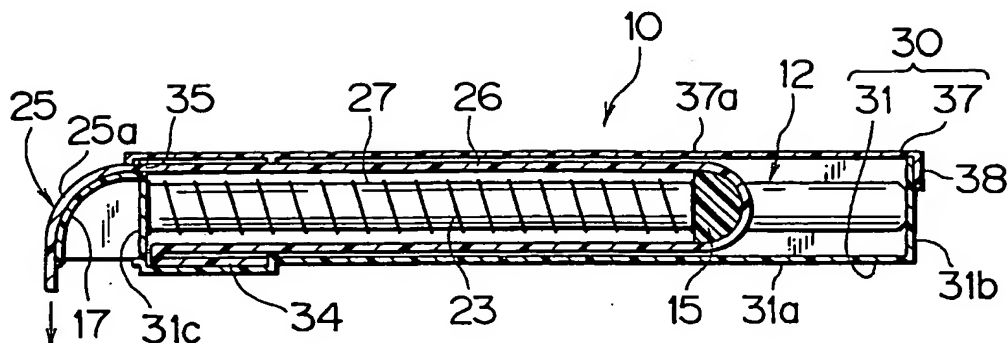


FIG. 1

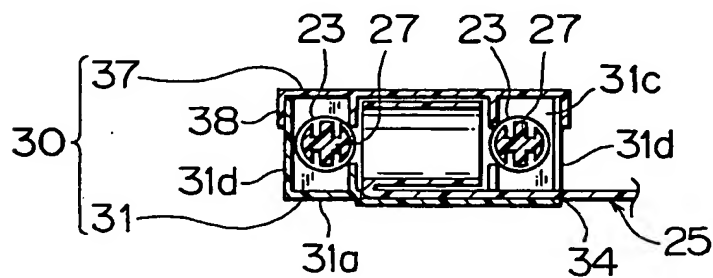


FIG. 2

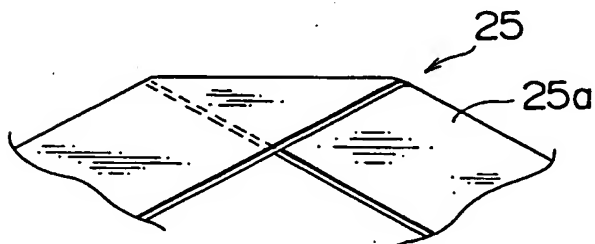


FIG. 3

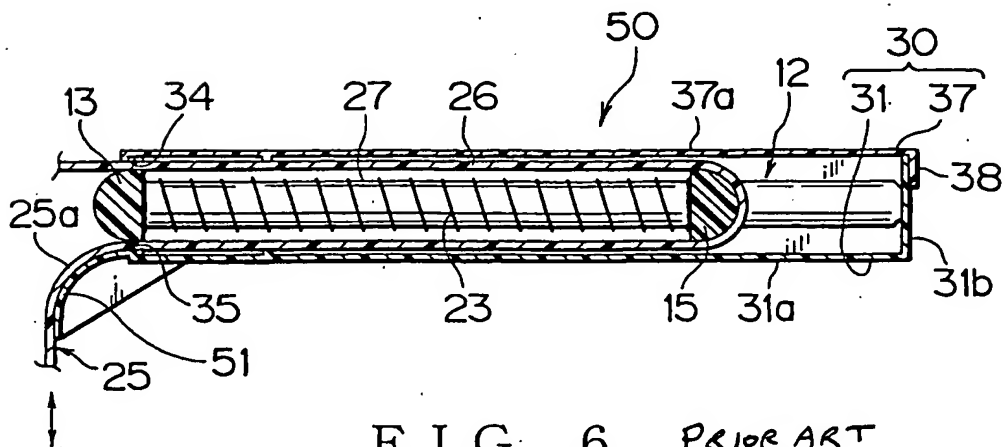


FIG. 6 PRIOR ART